

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for instant messaging in a network communication system comprising:

formulating a combined message to a recipient, said combined message including a predictive code and a communications message; ~~and~~

~~transmitting at least one of said predictive code and said combined communications message to a recipient;~~

~~executing the predictive code at the recipient; and~~

~~delivering the communications message to the recipient if the predictive code returns a first value and discarding the communications message if the predictive code returns a second value.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further including:

~~transmitting a modifying code to the recipient that causes a persistent state associated with the recipient to be modified. executing said code to establish at least one of:~~

~~modifying a persistent state associated with said recipient based on said code to indicate whether a selected communications message should be delivered and delivering said communications message; and~~

~~establishing said code as a predicate for evaluating whether a selected communications messages should be delivered;~~

~~returning a function value indicative thereof; and~~

~~transmitting said communications message if said function value indicates said communications message should be delivered.~~

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including establishing a state variable associated with said recipient.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said state variable corresponds to one or more aspects of a state of said recipient.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said state variable is namespaced based on a selected sender of a message.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said state variable includes at least one of a function and one or more parameters.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said parameters include at least one of a state variable name, a sender, and a recipient.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said state variable is at least one of modified by a sender, determined by selected code operating at said recipient, and updated by selected code operating at said recipient.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 further including storing a state variable on a server separate from a recipient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said code evaluates a state of said recipient.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said a state of said recipient includes whether a messages has been previously received.

24. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including establishing a security mechanism at a recipient to ensure that code transmitted to, and executed at, a recipient is noninvasive.

Claims 25-28 (Cancelled).